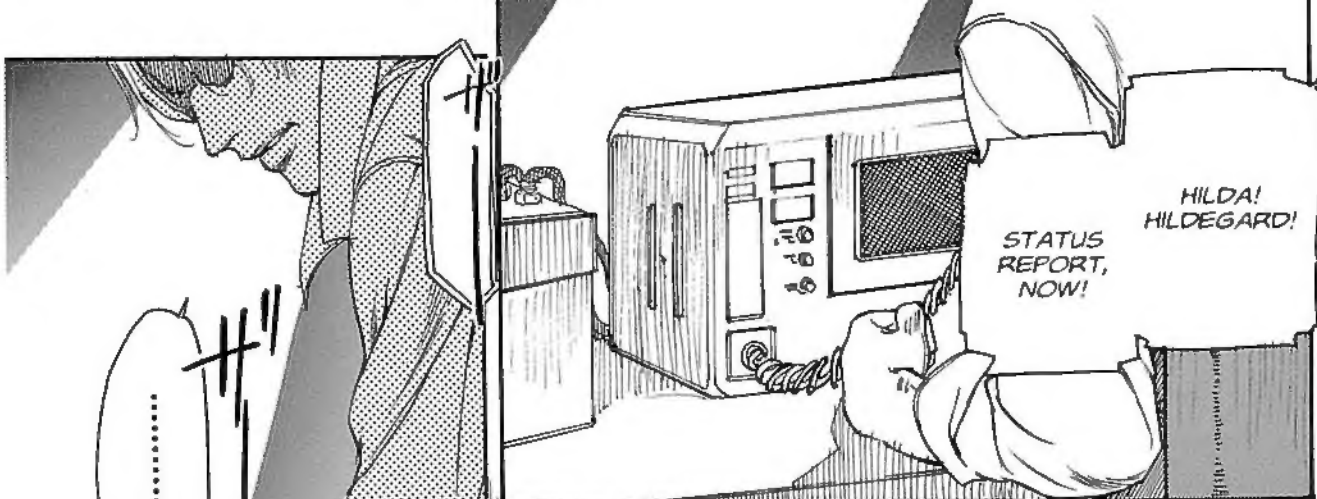




HILDA!
HILDEGARD!

STATUS
REPORT,
NOW!

Episode.10



...AS A
GESTURE
OF
RESPECT
TO A
FALLEN
NATION'S
HERO...



...LIEUTENANT
HERMAN
KILLMEYER.



AS
BEFITTING
AN ELITE
FORCE...

...YOUR
ARRIVAL IS
IMPRES-
SIVELY
PROMPT.

I MADE SURE
TO ARRIVE
WITH AMPLE
TIME TO
SPARE...





I THOUGHT
WE'D MEET
AGAIN.



YOU
KNEW,
HILDA?

Episode.10

[Within the Cocoon IV]

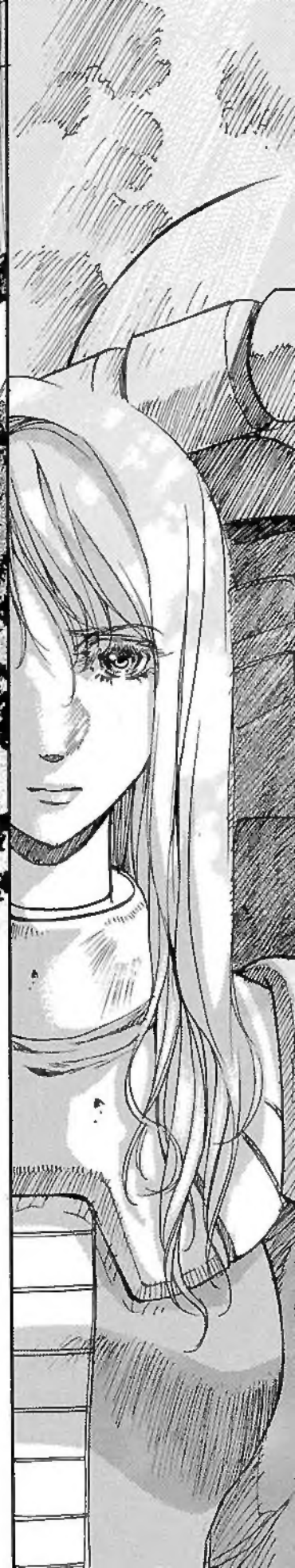


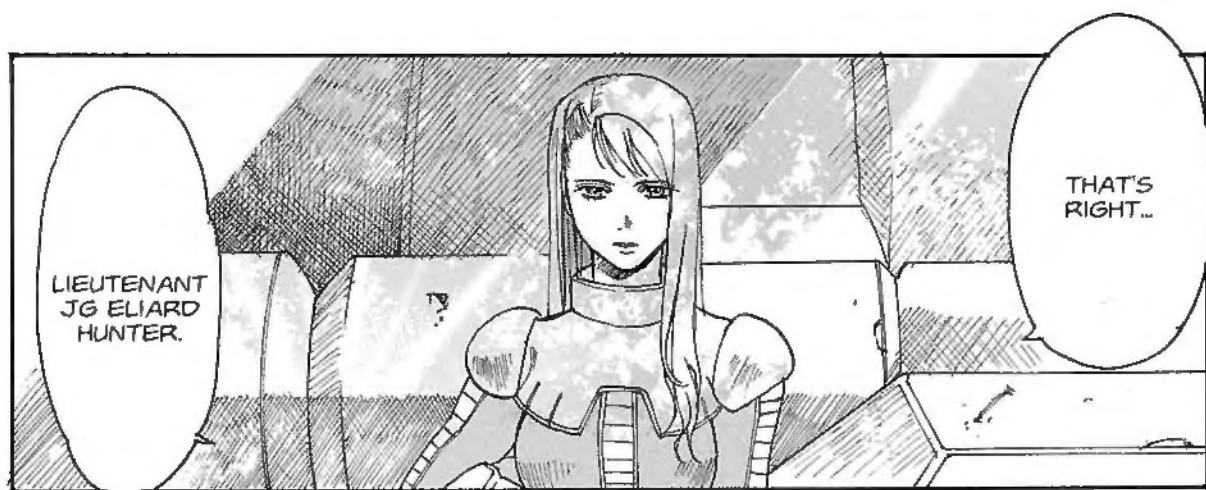
YOU
KNEW...



...AND
STILL...

...FROM THE
BEGINNING
THAT I WAS
WITH THE
TITANS...

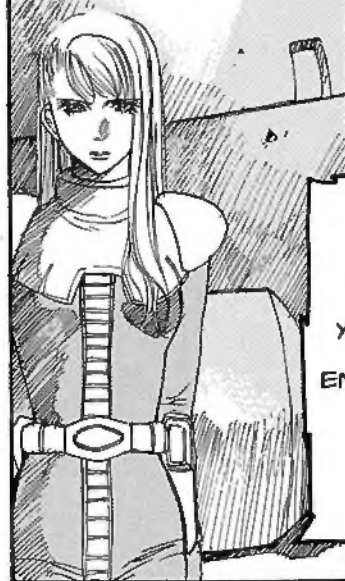




WHAT DROVE
YOU TO
EXECUTE
SUCH A
SUICIDAL
OPERATION?



THAT...
...IS THE
NATURE
OF OUR
STRUGGLE.



THEN HOW
COULD YOU
JUSTIFY SUCH
ACTIONS!

YOU COULD
HAVE
ENDANGERED
CIVILIAN
LIVES!



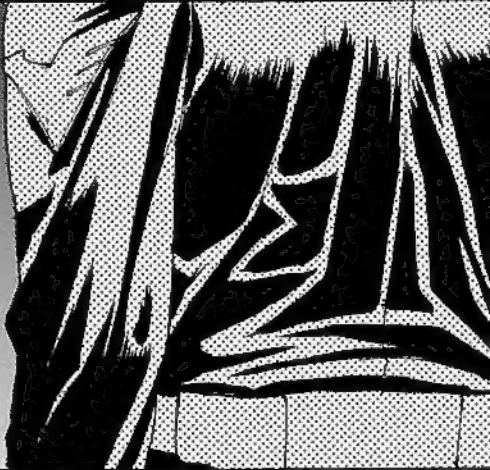
WHAT
GOOD
WOULD
KNOWING
DO?



LET'S CALL
IT MERE
CURIOSITY.



NO
REASON,
REALLY.





I'VE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED YOU AND YOUR SQUADRON.

COMPLETELY POINTLESS.



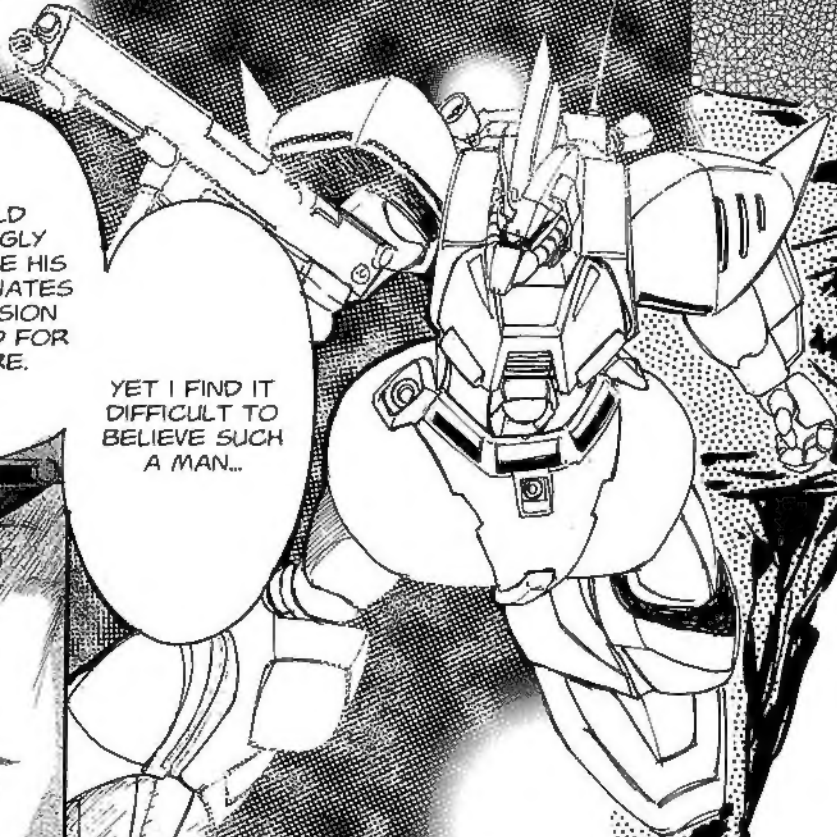
AN OPERATION YIELDING NO ADVANTAGE IS FUNDAMENTALLY WORTHLESS.



THE QUINTESSENTIAL COMMANDER.

ALL WITHOUT A SINGLE CASUALTY AMONG YOUR RANKS. NOT ONE SOLDIER LOST.

DURING THE FINAL PHASE OF THE ONE YEAR WAR, YOU GUIDED INEXPERIENCED STUDENT SOLDIERS THROUGH BATTLEFIELD CHAOS, THEN FOUGHT THROUGH THE DELAZ CONFLICT...



...WOULD KNOWINGLY SACRIFICE HIS SUBORDINATES IN A MISSION DESTINED FOR FAILURE.



YET I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE SUCH A MAN...

THE PASSAGE
OF TIME
GRADUALLY
DIMINISHES US.

EVEN THE
STRONGEST
UNITY BEGINS
TO FRACTURE
ONCE THE
FOUNDATIONAL
PILLAR OF
HOMELAND
CRUMBLES.

THE
RESISTANCE
WE PLACED
OUR HOPES IN
ENDED
IN VAIN.

I'VE
WITNESSED
THEM
BEFORE...

I'M FAR
FROM...

THE
HONORABLE
MAN YOU
DESCRIBE.

I SIMPLY
WANTED TO
PROVIDE THEM...

WITH THIS BARELY
FUNCTIONING BODY,
I CAN NO LONGER
STAND AT THE
VANGUARD TO
GUIDE MY SOLDIERS.

YET I CLING
TO THIS
MEANINGLESS
PRIDE AS THEIR
COMMANDER.



A TRULY
EXEMPLARY
COMMAND-
ER INDEED.

YES...



BUT YOU
FAILED TO
READ THE
SHIFTING
TIDES.

THOSE WHO
CHALLENGE
ESTABLISHED
ORDER
REMAIN
NOTHING
MORE THAN
TERRORISTS.

...AS THEY
DESPERATELY
DESIRED.

PEOPLE,
AN
ENTIRE
NATION...

...WITH
ONE
FINAL
BATTLE-
FIELD...



...WHO DROVE
OTHERS TO
BATTLEFIELDS
WITH GRAND
IDEALS AND
HOPES,
DISGUISED
BENEATH
EXCLUSIVE
SUPERIORITY...

...AND
COUNTER-
FEIT PATRI-
OTISM.

I KNOW
PRECISELY
WHERE...

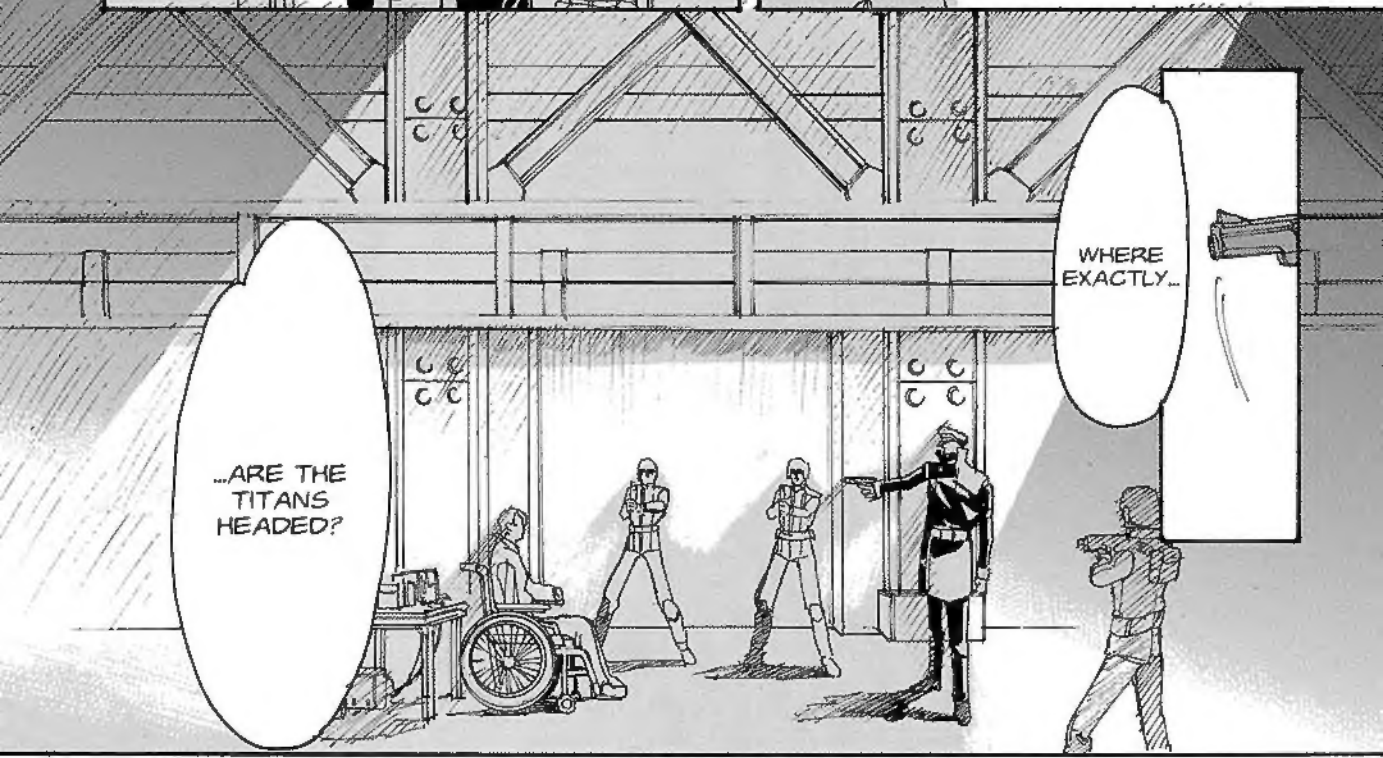


SO...

ANSWER
ME ONE
THING.

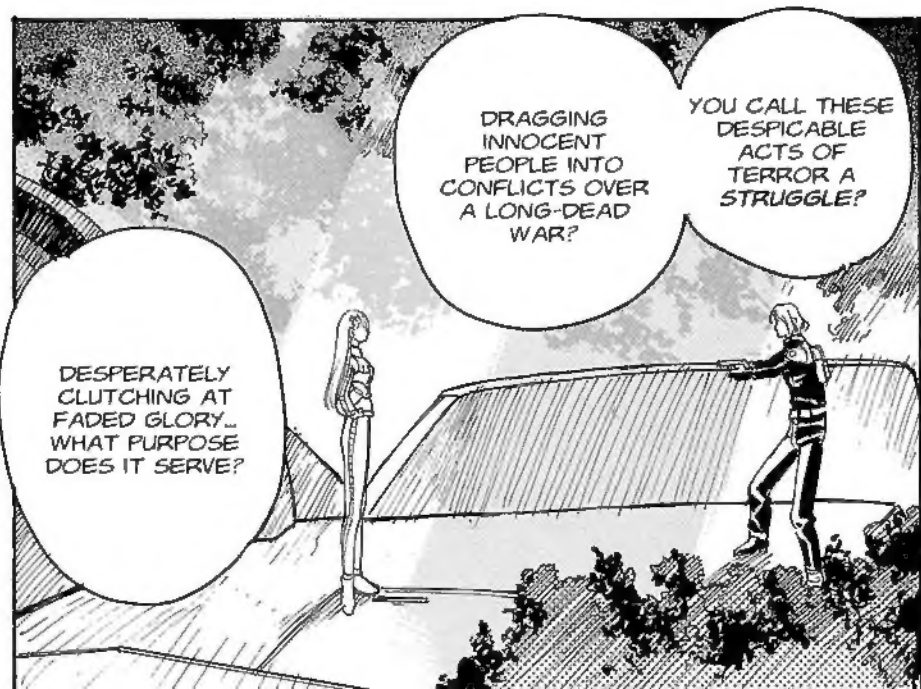


...SUCH
PATHS
LEAD.



...ARE THE
TITANS
HEADED?

WHERE
EXACTLY...



DESPERATELY
CLUTCHING AT
FADED GLORY...
WHAT PURPOSE
DOES IT SERVE?

DRAWING
INNOCENT
PEOPLE INTO
CONFLICTS OVER
A LONG-DEAD
WAR?

YOU CALL THESE
DESPICABLE
ACTS OF
TERROR A
STRUGGLE?



STRUGGLE?
REALLY?

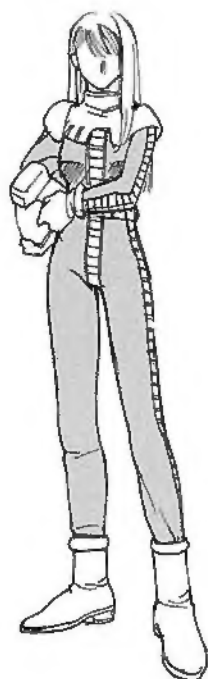


DO YOU
TRULY
BELIEVE
YOU CAN
WAGE
THIS WAR...

...SOLELY
ON THE
PRETENSE OF
RECLAIMING A
HOMELAND?



WE'VE
MOVED
BEYOND
NEEDING
REASONS.



THE
PRINCIPALITY
OF ZEON
IS GONE.

THERE'S NO
REASON
TO FIGHT
ANYMORE.



I CAN NO
LONGER FIGHT
FOR SUCH
HOLLOW
CAUSES.





YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
REMINDED
ME OF
THAT...

ELIARD.

THERE
WAS NO
REASON
TO FIGHT,
SO I
SEARCHED.



THEY
BETRAYED
EVERY
SOLDIER WHO
FOUGHT WITH
UNWAVERING
FAITH IN THEIR
NATION,
ABANDONING
BOTH THEIR
PRINCIPLES
AND THEIR
DIGNITY.

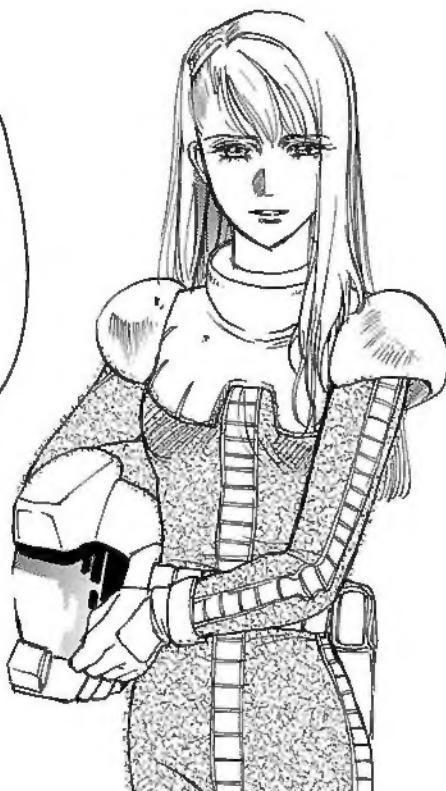
THE
HOMELAND
I KNEW IS
ALREADY
LOST.

SO
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
LOST...

WHAT
YOU
WERE
SEARCH-
ING
FOR...



THAT'S
WHAT
GIVES ME
STRENGTH
TO FIGHT.



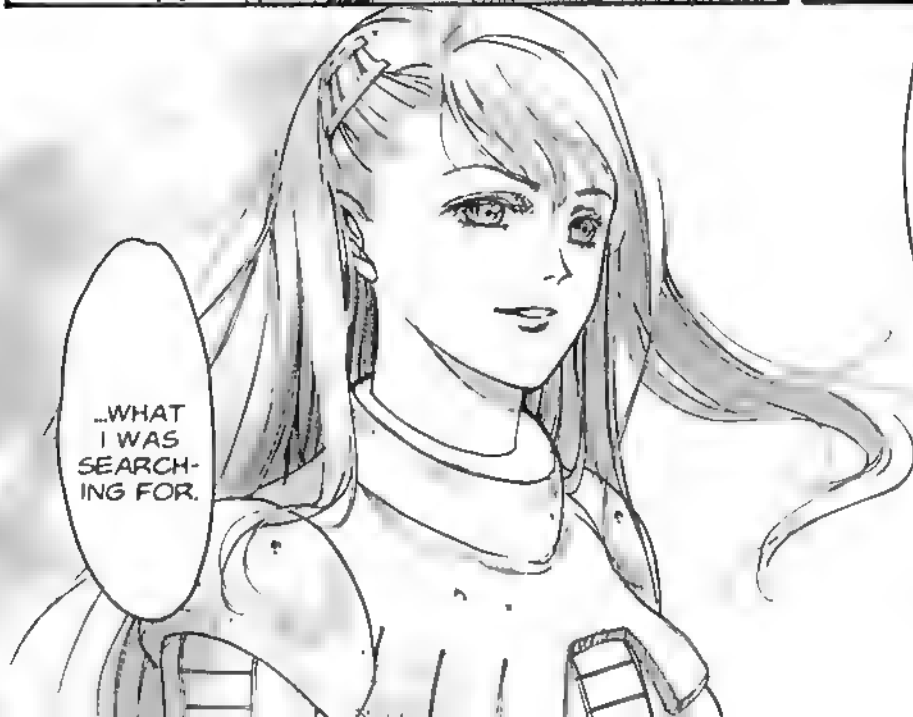
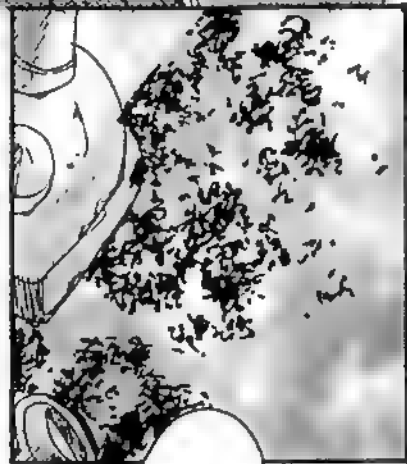
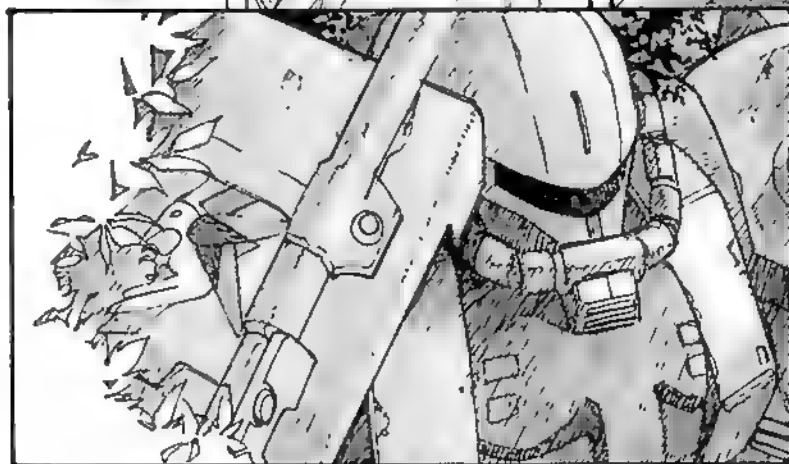
I CARRY
MY OWN
PRIDE.



...FOR
THE
SAKE OF
MY
COM-
RADES.



JUST
LIKE
YOU...

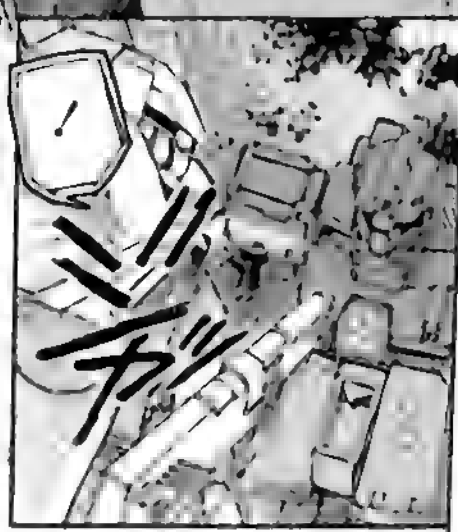
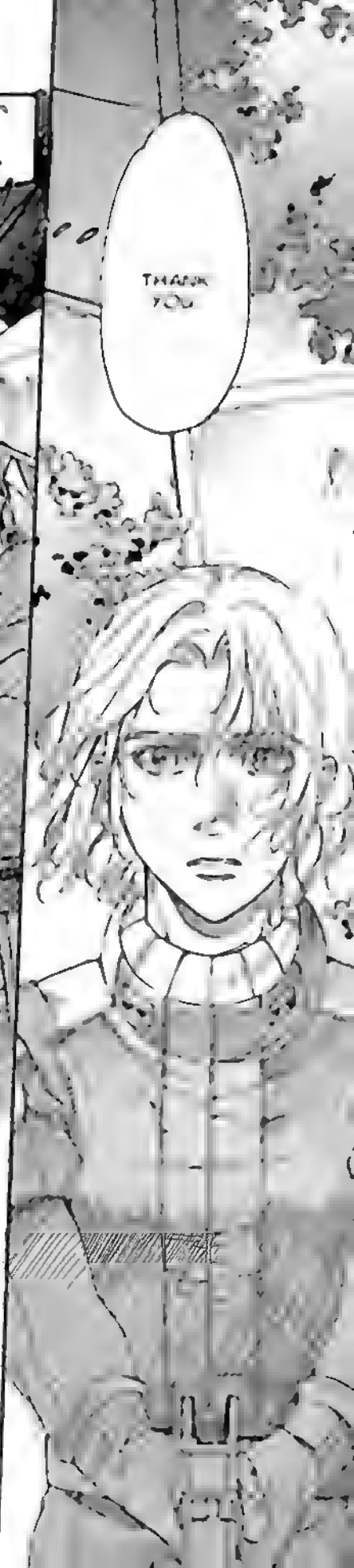


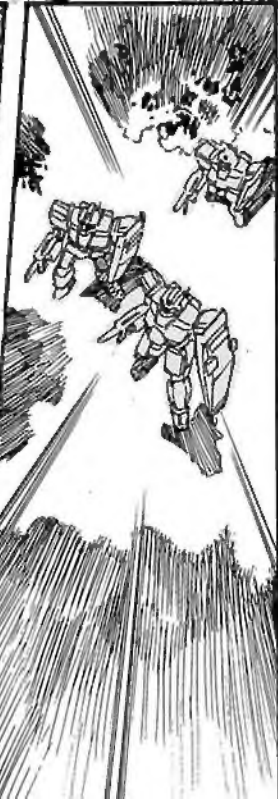
...WHAT
I WAS
SEARCH-
ING FOR.

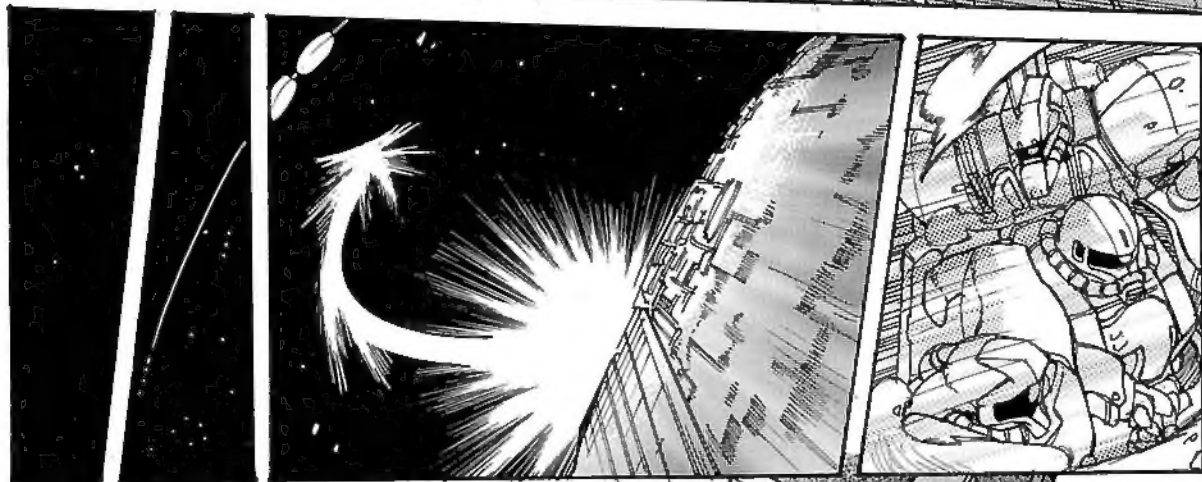
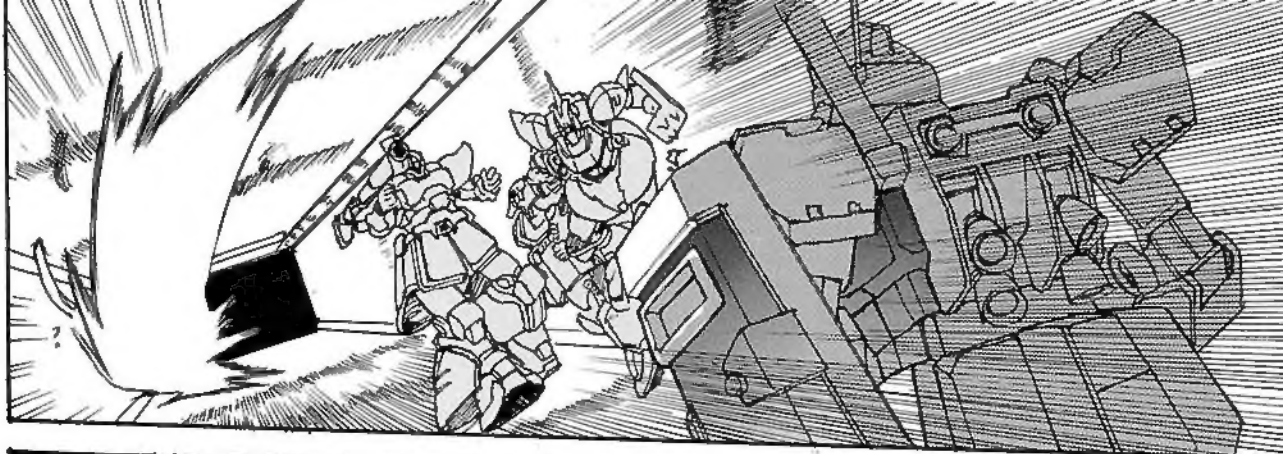
I FOUND...



THANK YOU



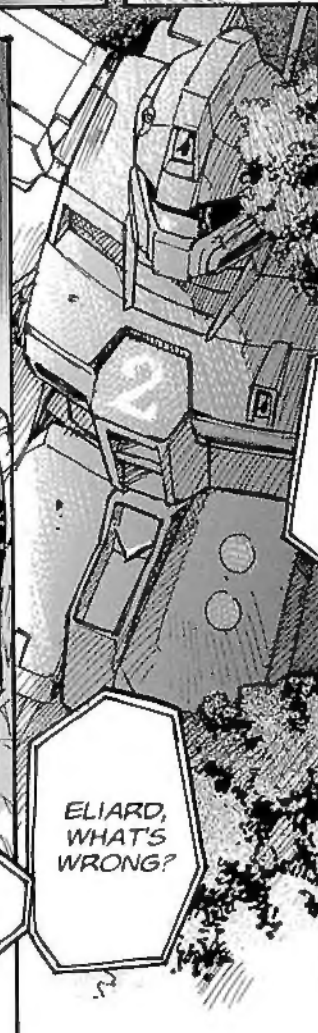




THERE'S
NO WAY I
CAN
FORGIVE
THIS...



EVEN
SO...



ELIARD,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

ELIARD!

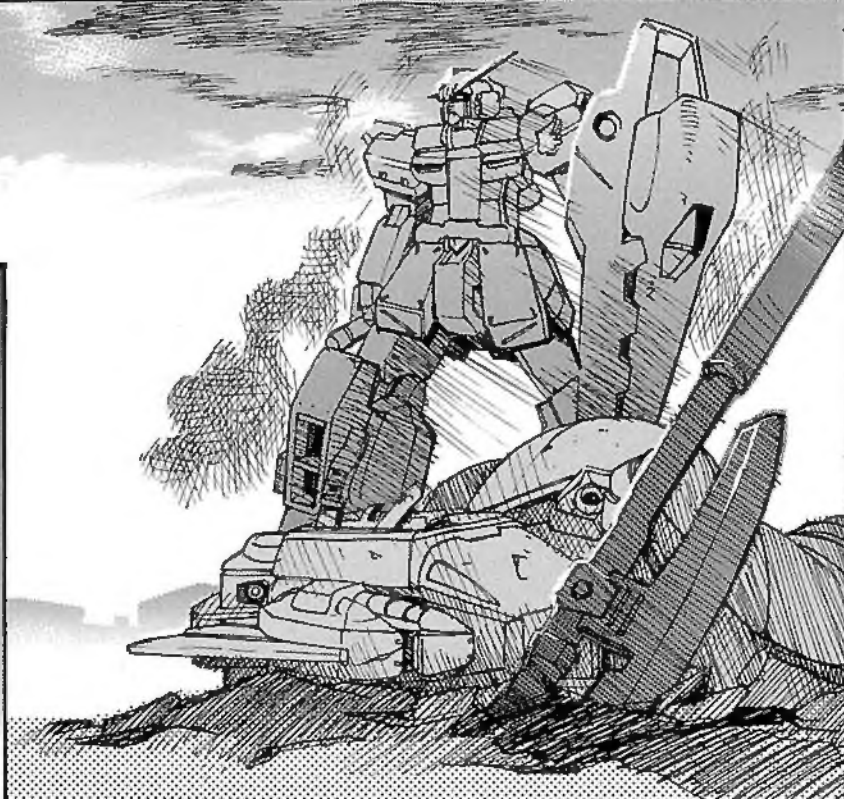
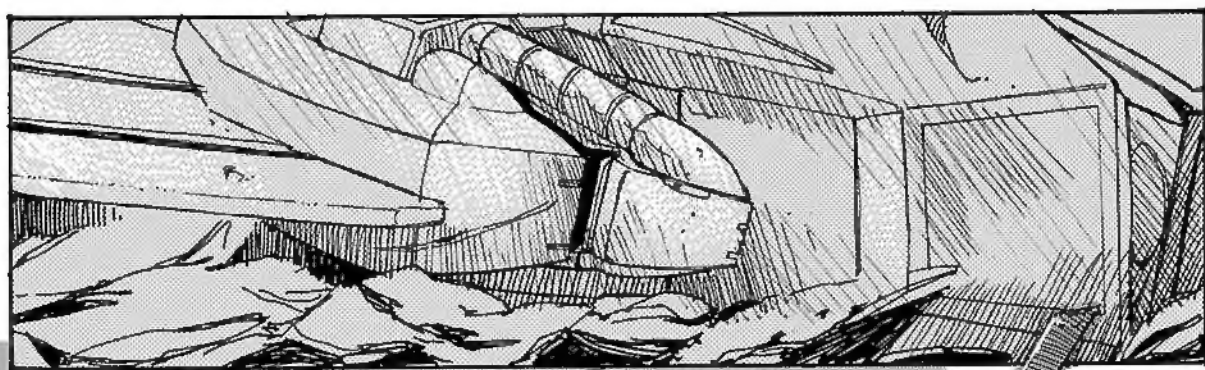


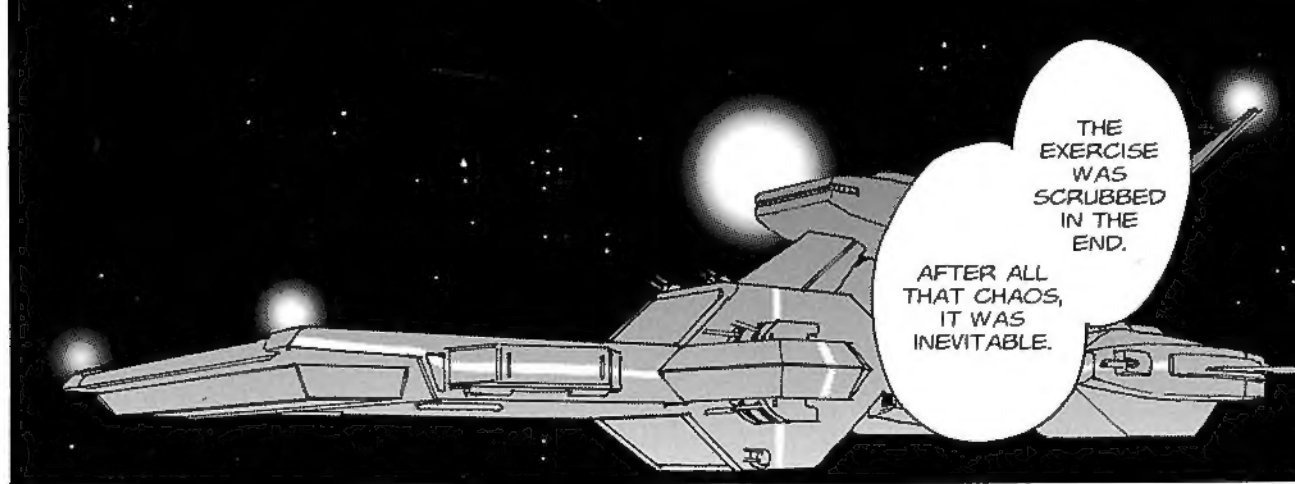
EVEN
BACK
THEN...

...TEARS
WERE
NEVER...



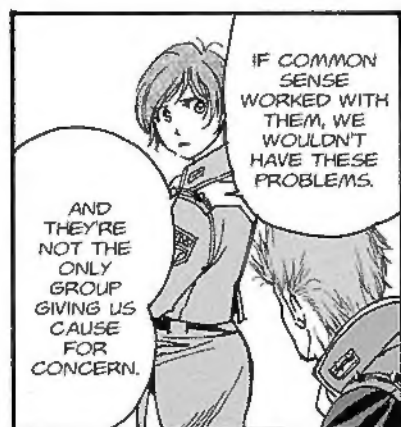
I NEVER
MEANT TO
CAUSE
YOU SUCH
PAIN.





THE
EXERCISE
WAS
SCRUBBED
IN THE
END.

AFTER ALL
THAT CHAOS,
IT WAS
INEVITABLE.



AND
THEY'RE
NOT THE
ONLY
GROUP
GIVING US
CAUSE
FOR
CONCERN.

IF COMMON
SENSE
WORKED WITH
THEM, WE
WOULDN'T
HAVE THESE
PROBLEMS.



WHO EVEN COMES
UP WITH A
STRATEGY THAT
COULD PUNCH A
HOLE THROUGH
A COLONY?



WHEN WILL THEY
FINALLY LAY
THESE OLD
GRUDGES TO
REST?

GOD!

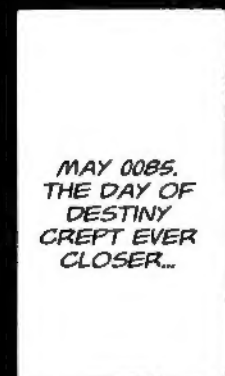
THOSE ZEON
FANATICS
REALLY KNOW
HOW TO
COMPLICATE
THINGS!



WE'RE
STRETCHED
THIN ENOUGH
HUNTING DOWN
REMNANT
FORCES. THEY
COULD AT
LEAST CUT US
SOME SLACK.

RIGHT,
ELIARD?

ANTI-EARTH
FEDERATION
MOVEMENTS?
REAL PAIN IN
THE NECK.



MAY 0085.
THE DAY OF
DESTINY
CREPT EVER
CLOSER...



YEAH...

RIGHT.